



AMETHYST

PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD

FROM DEATH... A NEW BEGINNING!

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AMETHYST

PRINCESS OF GENOWORLD™

THIS CANNOT BE
TRUE, AMETHYST!
PRINCE GARNET HAS
MADE A TERRIBLE
MISTAKE!

NO, LORD
RUBY! I BELIEVE
WHAT HE'S
TOLD ME!

AND THAT'S
WHY I CALLED YOU
ALL HERE--TO
TELL YOU...

...THAT FIRE
JADE IS REALLY
LADY EMERALD!

REBIRTH

A DRAMATIC
TURNING POINT IN THE
LIFE OF AMETHYST
PRESENTED BY...

DAN MISHKIN & GARY COHN, DAN JURGENS, KARL KESEL, COSTANZA, CARL GAFFORD, KAREN BERGER
WRITERS PENCILLER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR

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YOU HAVE GONE MAD, AMETHYST! LADY EMERALD IS DEAD!

BUT NOT RESTING IN PEACE...

SHE WAS CHANGED BY THE RULER OF THE REALM BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

EVEN SO... HOW COULD SHE THEN RETURN TO THE GENMWORLD?

BY PUTTING HER ELEMENTAL POWERS TO THE TASK OF CREATING STORMS--

--THE WEAKENED WITCH-MOTHER, CITRINA IS, SPECIAL LINK TO THE GENMWORLD'S MAGIC!

THEN AS CITRINA'S SPIRIT FILTERED, THE MAGIC FABRIC IN TURN MUST HAVE GROWN MORE FRAGILE...

YES, PRIEST! AFTER CITRINA, YOU NOBLES WERE FIRE JADE'S NEXT TARGET...

...FOR YOUR POWERS ARE POTENT ANCHORS FOR THIS WORLD'S MAGIC! THAT IS WHY SHE DID PLAN THE MURDER OF AQUAMARINE--

--AND PREVENTED HER OWN SLAYER FROM ASCENDING THE EMERALD THRONE!

...BANGING ON EVEN GREATER STORMS, AND CAUSING INTERMITTENT DRAINS OF MAGIC WE HAVE ALL ENCOUNTERED!

BUT SHE LET ME LIVE ONCE WHEN SHE COULD HAVE KILLED ME! #

FIRE JADE WOULD NOT BE SO SPARING A SECOND TIME, PRINCESS, NOW THAT HER SCHEME WAS ALREADY--

WAIT!

BACK UP A SECOND! WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT CITRINA'S "LINK"? I KNOW SHE DISCOVERED THE GENMWORLD...

CITRINA DID NOT MERELY FIND THIS PLACE, AMETHYST, ALTHOUGH THAT IS THE TALE SHE TELLS!

IN TRUTH SHE CREATED OUR WORLD, OUT OF BITS OF MAGIC FROM MANY REALMS...

...FOR IN HER YOUTH, CITRINA WAS PERHAPS THE MOST POWERFUL WIZARD WHO EVER STRODE THE EARTH! THAT WAS HER HOME!

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY FIRE JADE'S CREATURE MADE ME KILL THE WITCH-MOTHER!

THE GENMWORLD'S VERY EXISTENCE IS TIED TO HERS!

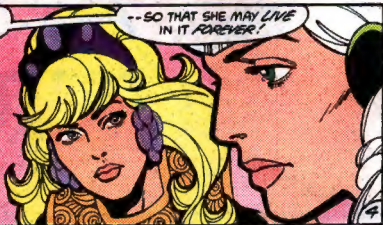
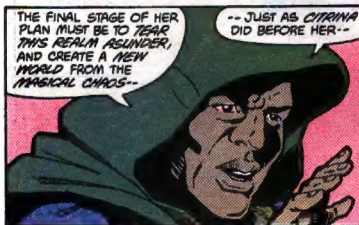
THEN WHEN SHE DIES...

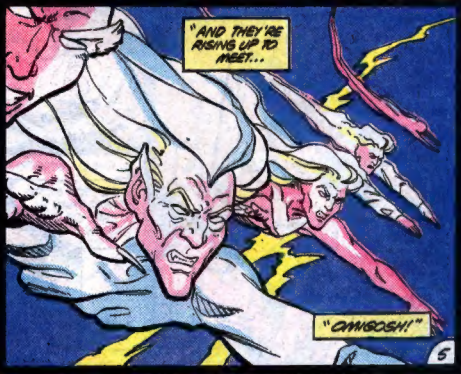
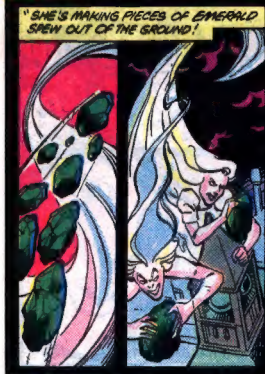
...SO WILL THIS ENTIRE REALM!

FIRE JADE MIGHT STRIKE AT ANY TIME... HERE AT THE EMERALD DOMAIN WHERE SHE IS MOST POWERFUL!

AND IF WE THREE CANNOT STOP HER, THEN YOU OTHERS MUST HURRY TO--

IN ISSUE #3-KB.







AND
WORLDS
AWAY...



...AND SHE WAS HEIR TO THE THRONE OF THE PLACE SHE WAS BORN: THE GEMWORLD!

"BUT A MAN CALLED DARK OPAAL KILLED AMY'S BIRTH PARENTS SO HE COULD RULE IN THEIR PLACE!"

"...EXCEPT THAT SHE WAS TAKEN TO A WORLD WITHOUT MAGIC WHERE DARK OPAAL COULDN'T FIND HER..."

"HE WOULD'VE KILLED HER TOO..."

"...EARTH!"

"LATER ON, THE GEMWORLD PEOPLE TRIED TO MAKE CONTACT AGAIN..."

"...ONLY, THAT GAVE THE BAD GUYS A CHANCE TO GRAB HER FIRST!"

"BUT THE PEOPLE ON AMY'S SIDE RESCUED HER AND HELPED HER LEARN TO USE THE MAGIC..."

"...AND TOGETHER THEY DEFEATED DARK OPAAL!"

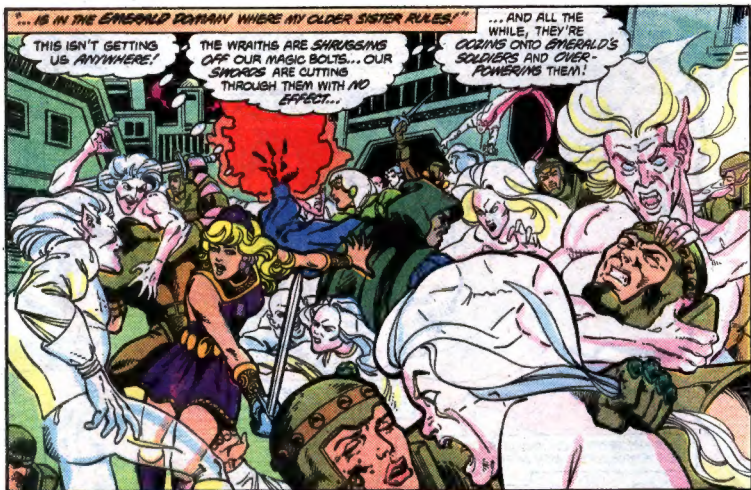
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW SHE'D GONE THERE AGAIN! SHE SAID THAT AFTER SHE FOUND A WAY FOR EMMY TO GET BACK--

-- SHE JUST WANTED TO FORGET ABOUT THE GEMWORLD!

EMMY? YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT AMY'S COUSIN?
I AM PRINCESS EMERALD, TOM...

WOW!

I WAS STRANDED HERE ON EARTH WHILE AIDING AMY! MY TRUE NAME...



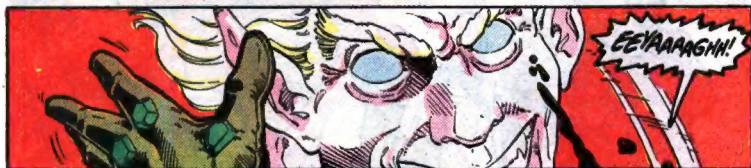
...IS IN THE EMERALD DOMAIN WHERE MY OLDER SISTER RULES!"

...AND ALL THE WHILE, THEY'RE

THIS ISN'T GETTING US ANYWHERE!

THE WRAITHS ARE SHRUGGING OFF OUR MAGIC BOLTS... OUR SWORDS ARE CUTTING THROUGH THEM WITH NO EFFECT...

COZING ONTO EMERALD'S SOLDIERS AND OVER-POWERING THEM!

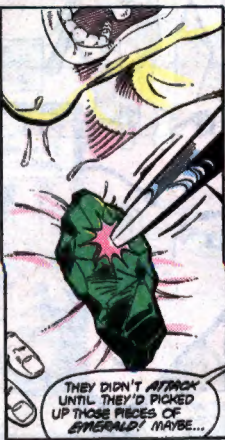


EEYAAAAGHH!



I'D GO FOR THEIR MESSK' SACKS, BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THEY HAVE ANY! DO WRAITHS HAVE HEARTS OR--

HEY!



THEY DIDN'T ATTACK UNTIL THEY'D PICKED UP THOSE PIECES OF EMERALD! MAYBE...



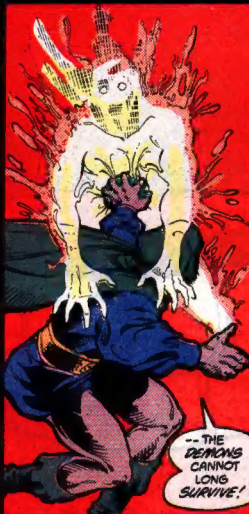
GORNA!

FIRE JADE MUST'VE USED HER AFFINITY FOR THE LAND OF EMERALD--

--TO GIVE THESE WRAITHS THE SPARK OF LIFE!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

LOOK, YOU SOLDIERS!
PRINCESS AMETHYST HAS
DISCOVERED THE KEY! WITH-
OUT THE GEMS INSIDE
THEM--



-- THE
DEMONS
CANNOT
LONG
SURVIVE!

'TIS TRUE! I'VE BUT TO
CLEAVE THE STONE IN TWAIN,
AND THE WRAITH IS RETURNED
TO ITS OWN DIM DIMENSION!



THEN LET ME
USE MY MAGIC
NOW--



--TO WITHDRAW
FROM THEM EACH
FRAGMENT OF THE
GEM WHICH I COMMAND
BY RIGHT OF BIRTH!

BUT--



BY THE WESTERN
WIND! WHENCE
COMES THIS WHIP-
PING GALE?!

MY SPELL'S
NOT YET
COMPLETE!



NOR SHALL IT BE, WHILE
ALL THE ELEMENTS
STILL DO MY BIDDING!



FIRE
JADE
HAS
CAUGHT
THE
PRINCESS
EMERALD
IN A
WILD
GUST...

... BUT NO SUCH
STORMY TURBULENCE
WILL HINDER ONE
WHO LEARNED TO
RIDE THE WINDS
IN CHILDHOOD!

AND THOUGH SHE WHO CALLS
HERSELF FIRE JADE WAS IN
THOSE BYGONE DAYS MY
GREATEST FRIEND--

-- I'LL SEE HER NEW AND MOST
UNHOLY LIFE PUT TO A CLOSE!

SOLDIER, YOU SAW
HOW TO STOP THE
WARRIORS! NOW
TAKE MY SWORD...

I HAVE YOU,
PRINCESS
EMERALD!

...AND
DO IT!

BE DONE WITH THE
CREATURE, PRINCESS! IT
HAS NO POWER IN THIS
LUNNY REALM EXCEPT TO
SCHEME AND TERRORIZE!

EDURGH! SHE'S
CAUSED THE MASONRY
TO ENSNARE ME!

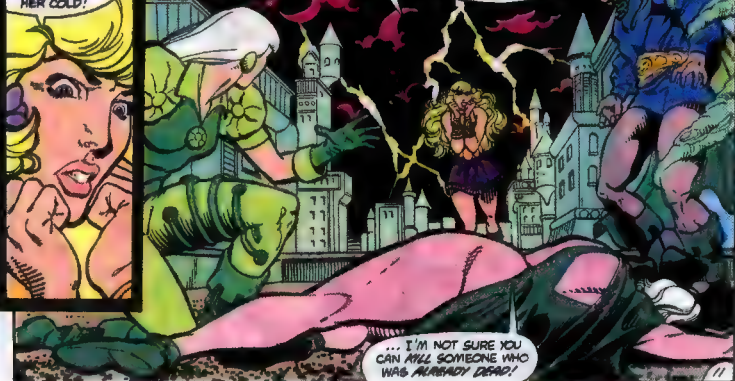
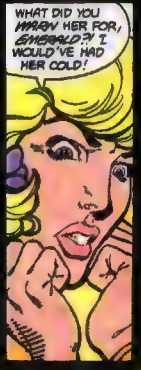
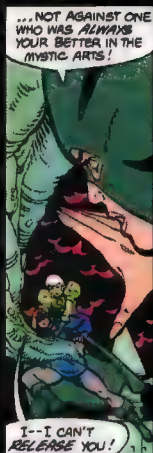
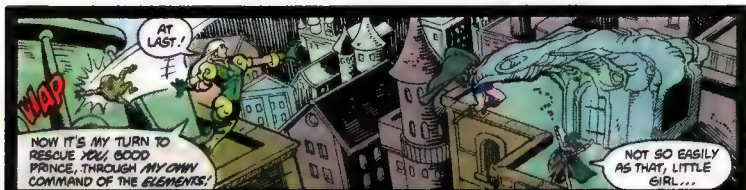
UNTIL THIS WORLD IS
RECREATED IN ITS FEAR-
SOME IMAGE AS IT
CRAVES--

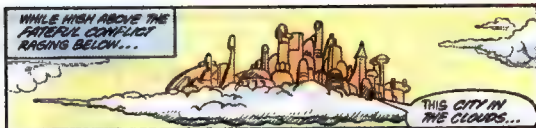
-- THE CREATURE
MUST DEPEND ON PAINNS
LIKE FIRE JADE TO
DO ITS HANDIWORK!

I SHALL
SHOW YOU
WHO IS A
PAINN, PRINCE
GARNET!

AND YET THE
TERROR 'GACK'
IS SO REAL!

PAINNS!?





AND IN THE LAND OF EMERALD...

WHEN LADY EMERALD'S SPIRIT WAS MADE FIRE JADE, HER JOURNEY THROUGH THE REALMS BEYOND WAS HALTED PREMATURELY!

AND IF YOU DESTROY HER IN HER CURRENT FORM, SHE'LL BE FOREVER BARRED FROM ENTERING THE REALM OF GATHERED SOULS!

HEAVEN.

SO EARTHERS CALL A SIMILAR PLACE.

LOOK, PRINCE GARNET, I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU AND EMERALD FEEL FOR HER--AND I'M SYMPATHETIC...

...BUT WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN FIRE JADE REVIVES?

HEROES! SAVORS! HAH! YOU'RE PARALYZED BY GOOD INTENTIONS JUST AS LADY EMERALD WAS TRAPPED BY FEAR!

THE GEMWORLD WILL BE MINE!

PAY ITS MOCKING WORDS NO HEED, AMETHYST! ITS PRANKS ARE OF NO IMPORT--

--WHILE THE LIVING WORLD YET STANDS!

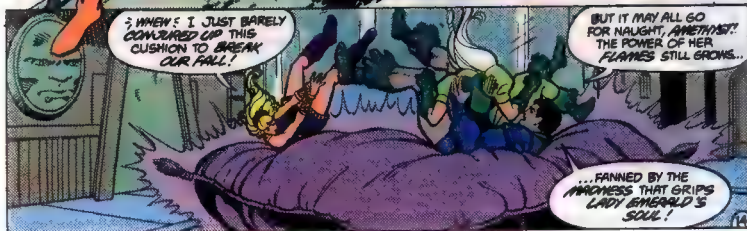
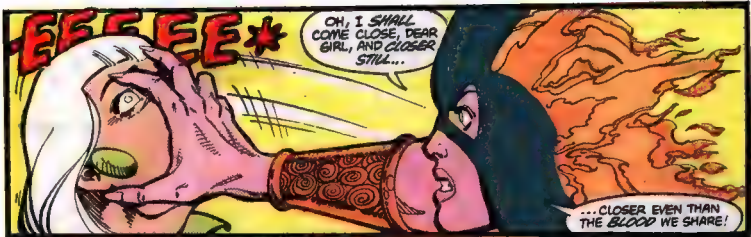
--OOSH--

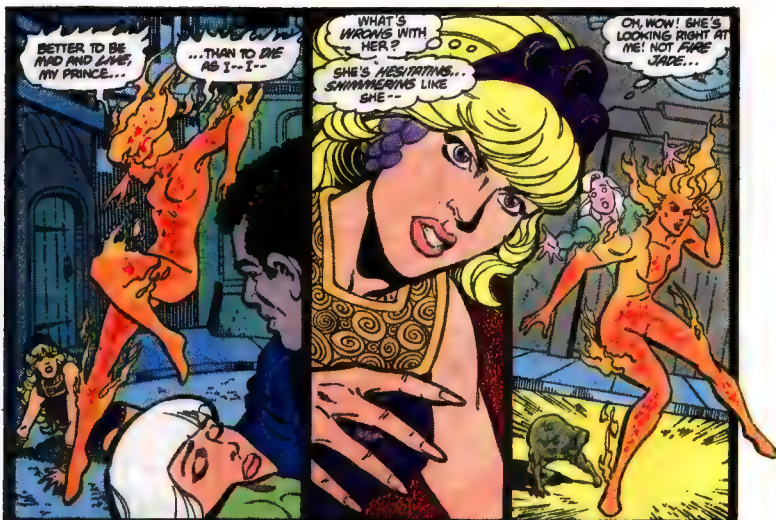
MOTHER, PLEASE AWAKEN!

I KNOW YOUR SPIRIT IS BUT SLEEPING DEEP IN FIRE JADE'S BOSOM!

D-DAUGHTER...?

YES! YES, I'M HERE! MOTHER! COME CLOSE AND LET ME--





BETTER TO BE
MAD AND LIVE,
MY PRINCE...

...THAN TO DIE
AS I--I--

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
HER?

SHE'S HESITATING...
SHWARTERING LIKE
SHE--

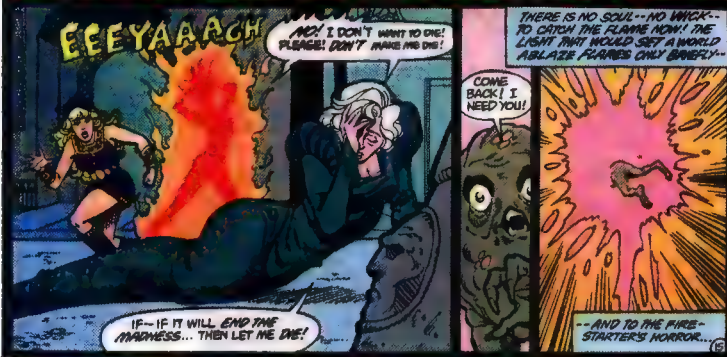
OH, WOW! SHE'S
LOOKING RIGHT AT
ME! NOT FIRE
JADE...



...LADY
EMERALD!

MAYBE HER
DAUGHTER DID
GET THROUGH TO
HER, BUT SHE'S
STILL TRAPPED
INSIDE JADE!

IF MY MAGIC WILL PROTECT
ME, I CAN PUSH EMERALD'S
SPIRIT OUT!



EEYAAAGH

NO! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
PLEASE! DON'T MAKE ME DIE!

THERE IS NO SOUL--NO WHISK--
TO CATCH THE FLAME NOW! THE
LIGHT THAT WOULD SET A WORLD
ABLAZE FEARED ONLY BRIEFLY--

COME
BACK! I
NEED YOU!

IF-- IF IT WILL END THE
MADNESS... THEN LET ME DIE!

--AND TO THE FIRE-
STARTER'S HORROR...

...BURNS
OUT!

MOTHER! MOTHER,
YOU ARE SAVED!

I AM... THANKS
TO ALL OF YOU.

AND YOU'RE
ALIVE! ALIVE!

NO, MY DEAR
HEART...

I HAVE
DIED!

BUT--!

AND ANY OF THE LIVING WHO
SHOULD TOUCH MY FORM SHALL
JOIN ME IN DEATH!

HOW IS IT, THEN, THAT YOU REMAIN
HERE FULLY FLESHED? THE ANCIENT
ONES TEACH THAT THE DEAD MUST--

DO NOT PLACE ALL
TRUST WITH THE ANCIENT
ONES, OLD FRIEND...

MY TEACHERS?
COLLUDING WITH
THE LORD OF THE
TWILIGHT ABRAM?

THERE IS NO
TIME TO
EXPLAIN!

AND BEFORE I FADE
FROM THIS REALM ONCE
MORE-- AND FOREVER--
THERE IS ONE TASK
REMAINING...

...TO RESCUE
CITRINA FROM
THE STALKER
OF SOULS!

... FOR THEY WERE
THE MASTERS OF
THE ONE WHO DID
MASTER ME!

THE EFFORT
SIMPLY TO STAY
AMONGS YOU
IS TOO GREAT...

THE "STALKER
OF SOULS"?

ON EARTH, YOU MIGHT
NAME IT-- "THE ANGEL
OF DEATH!"

THEN WE'VE GOT
TO GET TO CITRINA
AS FAST AS WE
CAN!

GOING THROUGH A
MAGIC PORTAL WILL
USE UP LOTS OF
MY ENERGY...

--BUT IT'S
WORTH THE
RISK IF WE CAN
SAVE HER!

"EVERYBODY
FOLLOW ME..."

--TO CASTLE
AMETHYST!

LOOK!
SHE'S AWAKE!

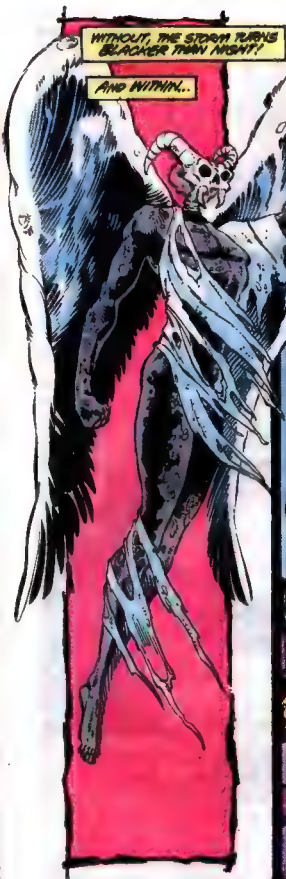
YOU WERE WRONG, LADY
EMERALD! CITRINA'S NOT
DYING... AND NEITHER IS THE
GENEWORLD NOW THAT
FIRE JADE'S BEEN
STOPPED!

N-NO, CHILD...
IT IS YOU
WHO ARE...
MISTAKEN...

WHAT
DO YOU...

KRA-
KA-
BOOM!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING



WITHOUT, THE STORM TURNS
BLACKER THAN NIGHT?

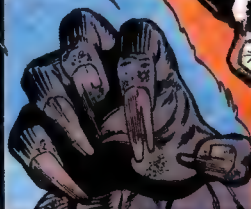
AND WITHIN...

...AN EVEN DARKER PRESENCE
IS MADE MANIFEST!

THE STALKER
OF SOULS!

YES,
CHILD...

YOU HAVE DEPLETED FIRE
JADE-- AND THE MAGIC
STOLEN FROM THIS REALM
IS RETURNING...



"...BUT FAR TOO LITTLE AND TOO
LATE FOR ME!"

PERHAPS NOT,
WITCH-MOTHER!

STALKER!
TURN!



THE OTHERS MAY BE
WORTHLESS AGAINST YOUR
GUILTY KNOW, BUT I HAVE
NO MORE LIFE FOR YOU
TO TAKE!

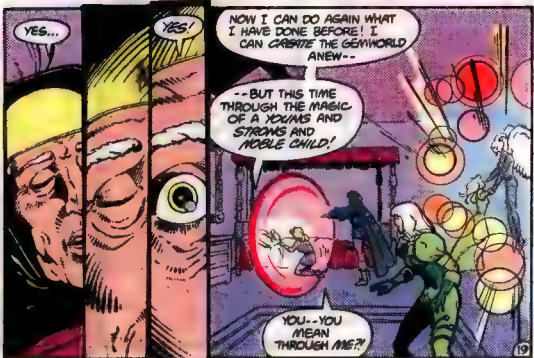
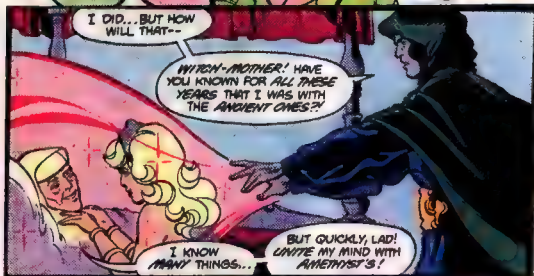
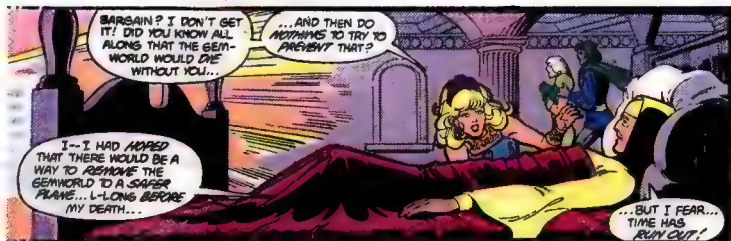
HEAR ME NOW,
STALKER!

I KNOW, DESPITE
YOUR ADMIRABLE
PERSISTENCE, THAT YOU ARE
NOT AN EVIL ENTITY!



AND YOU KNOW THAT
THE MOMENT OF
CITRINA'S DEATH
WOULD STILL BE AHA,
AHA OAH...

--HAD NOT THE ANCHOR
BARBARA BY WHICH SHE WON
THIS WORLD BEEN ASSIGNED. 118





THE MANTLE
MUST BE PASSED!
IT IS YOUR
DESTINY, DEAR
AMETHYST!



BUT--BUT I'M
NOT READY! THERE'S
GOTTA BE ANOTHER
WAY!

"YOU ARE PREPARED...
AND THERE IS NO
OTHER CHOICE!"

"THE GEMWORLD HAS SLIPPED
PERILOUSLY CLOSE TO
EXTINCTION! WE WILL COM-
PLETE THAT PROCESS NOW..."

"CITRINA, NO! WE'RE MAKING IT
ALL COME APART! EVERYTHING'S
GOING TO BE--OMIGOSH!"

"I SEE!"

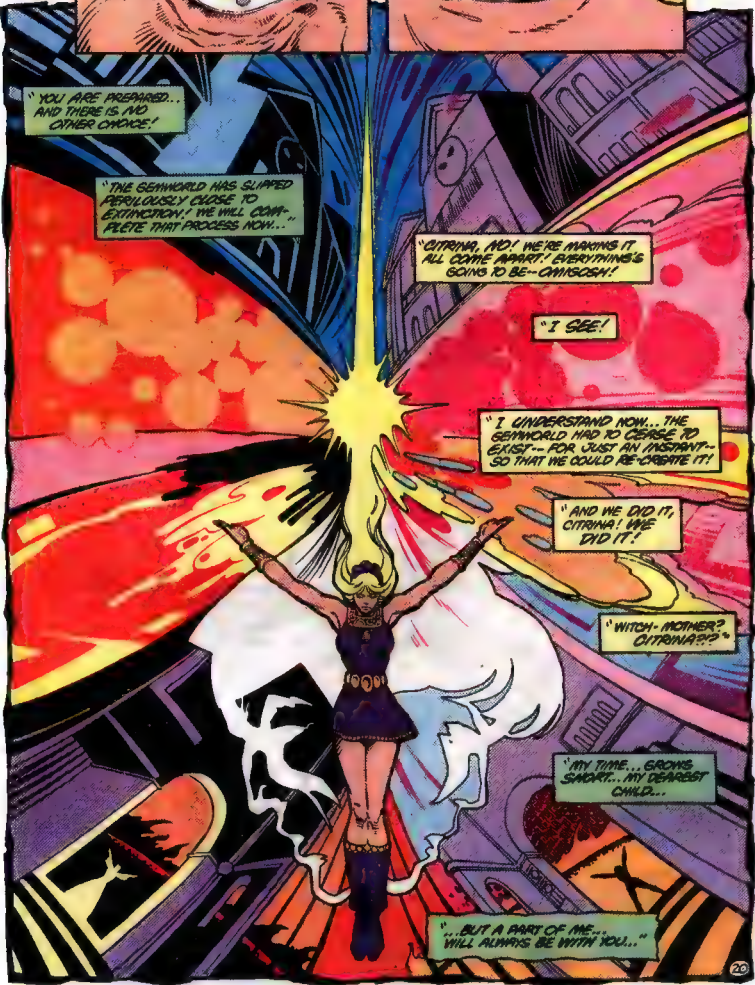
"I UNDERSTAND NOW... THE
GEMWORLD HAD TO CEASE TO
EXIST-- FOR JUST AN INSTANT--
SO THAT WE COULD RE-CREATE IT!"

"AND WE DID IT,
CITRINA! WE
DID IT!"

"WITCH-MOTHER?
CITRINA???"

"MY TIME... GROWS
SMART... MY DEAREST
CHILD..."

"...BUT A PART OF ME...
WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU..."



THERE IS A REALM OF EXISTENCE BEYOND ANY WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE... AND HERE IS STORED THE KNOWLEDGE OF ETERNITY!

HERE ARE BARBARIANS MADE-- AND PROMISES KEPT THOUGH THEY BE SOON OLD!

AND HERE IS REDEMPTION SIMPLY METED OUT!

HERE ARE THE ANCIENT ONES...

...AND THEY ARE ANGRY!

WHILE ON THE GEMWORLD--

-- THERE IS WEeping...

STAND AWAY, AMETHYST! YOU HAVE DONE YOUR UTMOST AND REMADE THE WORLD...

... BUT EVEN YOU CAN NO LONGER FORESTALL WHAT MUST AT LAST TRANSPIRE!

ADVANCE NO FARTHER, GIRL! SHE IS BEYOND US NOW!

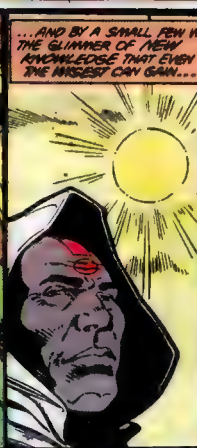
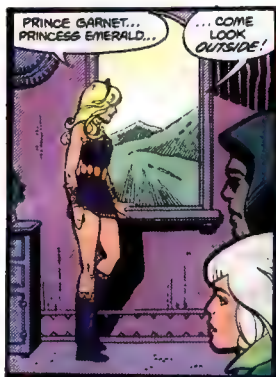
BUT ONE LAST TOUCH--

-- WOULD MEAN YOUR DOOM!

THAT THE STALKER WAS RETAINED WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A MIRACLE...

THAT HE SHOULD BE SAVED A MOMENT LONGER IS IMPOSSIBLE!

MOTHER?!



IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST,
I-- I NEVER HAD A CHANCE
TO SAY THE THINGS I WOULD
HAVE WANTED TO HER!

...TO ~~THANK~~ HER...
TO SAY HOW MUCH
I LOVE HER...

...TO SAY
GOOD--

A PART OF ME...
WILL ALWAYS BE
WITH YOU, AMETHYST.

DID YOU HEAR
THAT? DID
YOU?

I HEARD NOTHING,
PRINCESS, BUT THE
SOUND OF YOUR
VOICE...

AND THE
NOISES OF THE
REVELERS OUTSIDE!
BUT--

NEVER MIND. IT'S TIME
FOR US TO JOIN THE
PARTY ANYWAY!

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY WE SAVE
A WHOLE WORLD, RIGHT? WE'LL
SEE IF THE CASTLE BREWERS CAN
WHIP UP SOMETHING SPECIAL
AND--

OH, NO! I
JUST REALIZED!

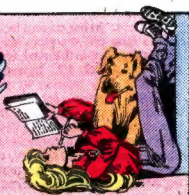
I CAME HERE IN MY SLEEP
WHEN CYTHRA CALLED ME! SO
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THE GEMWORLD
WHEN I WAKE UP BACK ON--

--EARTH--?!

AMETHYST!

NEXT: THE GEMWORLD ISN'T OUT OF DANGER YET, AS AMETHYST LEARNS MORE ABOUT HER NEW
RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD OF HER BIRTH... AND THE ANCIENT ONES PREPARE A VINDICTIVE REVENGE!
THE MAGIC CONTINUES, WITH ART BY CO-CREATOR JEFFREY COLOM... IN JUST THIRTY DAYS! BE HERE!

Purple Prose



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L-2031

Jewel Encrusted Ones,

I have read every issue of AMETHYST, and I must say that, so far, you are doing a marvelous job. It just seems to be getting better and better.

I do have a few questions. I just finished reading "The Boy Next Door." Was that bit about Plantworld and Princess Amethyst just a joke, or is it going to lead to something? I know that's a silly question, but you never know.

Another question. Why hasn't Emmy's age been affected by coming to Earth? Shouldn't she be about six years old now?

Also, what does Lady Sapphire see in Prince Moonstone? I'm sorry, but next to Prince Topaz...

About Topaz. HOW DARE YOU!! How dare you have him fall in love with Lady Turquoise. No, no, no!! That's all wrong! Amy has enough problems. How could you? I'm sure you're going to work everything out. Please do it quickly.

Oh! And PLEASE, don't have Lord Garnet lose his mind the way Lady Emerald did.

Keep up the excellent work.

Suzanne Alexander
929 Avenue A
Parkland, PA 19047

Amethyst, Princess of Plantworld, was initially meant to be a joke, Suzanne, but as you'll see by some of our letters and much to our surprise, reader reaction was quite favorable. So, who can tell what the unpredictable, demented minds of Mishkin and Cohn might do with it someday.

As for the reason why Emmy didn't age when she arrived on Earth—it goes like this: If you're born on one world, but grow up on another, like Amethyst and Carnelian, then your aging process will be affected. Emmy was born and raised on the Gemworld (she's the same age as Amy), so the time flow is inapplicable to her. Got that? Now maybe you can explain it to us!

Dear Editor, Writers, Artists, and everyone that helped to put together a great Amethyst story,

I am a new reader of AMETHYST, picking up the first issue of the regular series, because it was the first issue. I have to admit, I'm hooked.

Issue #5 was excellent. The idea of "Uncle Orville" being a robot was very good. Carnelian's vain little outburst on page 19 was cute. I can't wait to see what Carl's up to. Also, maybe one of

these days you can do a back-up story featuring Plantworld, Amethyst, and Dark Maple.

Yours truly,

Ray Sablack
3204 Meadow Wood Lane
Bedford, TX 76021

Dear People:

Now that you have warned the rest of the world of the blight known as (shudder) Dark Maple, I can breathe a little easier. Hopefully, if the warning came in time, his evil can be checked. But Dark Maple is a treacherous creature, and he will probably try to gain people's trust by writing to earthly publications such as newspapers, magazines, or (gasp!) comics.

Anyone hearing of or being contacted by Dark Maple in any of his hideous incarnations should contact my agency—Maplebusters. We'll "sap" it to him.

Cautiously yours,
Freeman R. Corey
Box 62
Washburn, ME 04786

Hmmm...I wonder if faithful letter column writer T.M. Maple is of any relation to the beast in question? Hope not, 'cause Freeman and his "Maplebusters" don't seem to be messing around! Say it isn't so, T.M.!

Dear Purplish Ones,

Issue #5 certainly abounded in subplots—subplot after subplot after... But I would like to mention a couple of other touches—touches which demonstrate the unique flavor of this mag and the deft work of its creators.

Firstly, we have the giant gem that exists in the place between dimensions. This is just another example of the inventive use made in this series of gems and related ideas. That the gem was both a possible gateway and a viewing-glass into the Gemworld was a neat practical touch and also nicely symbolic: To Amy, the Gemworld is both a thing to look at and admire, as well as a strange land that she travels to—sometimes willingly, sometimes not. It is a source of wonderment and frustration.

Secondly, we have the frustratingly brief look at Plantworld. Here we see a concept rich in possibilities tossed off in just a few panels. This demonstrates the breadth of the creative team's imagination. Of course, I cannot end without

mentioning Plantworld's Dark Maple. It's a shame we didn't even see him. With a name like that, he couldn't possibly be all bad! In fact, it sounds like a good idea for a mini-series. Therein we would no doubt find that he is simply misunderstood at present and is really quite a wonderful fellow trying to do the best he can. After all, all of us Maples are such notoriously nice people! And if you don't believe me, just ask L'il Buddy Maple (age 3½) and he'll confirm what I say. (If he knows what's good for him!)

Yours truly,

"T.M. Maple"

Box 1272, Station B
Weston, ON M9L2R9

P.S. from L'il Buddy Maple (still 3½): Yes, yes! Me agree with T.M. I Him right all the time! (Okay, T.M.?)

Dear Purple Prose,

What in the void is happening?

Lord Garnet going insane? Why pick such a rotten time? Who was that shape changer? Is Citrina really dying? And what about the way back to the Gemworld? This was starting to sound like a soap opera when Sapphire announced she was looking for a husband. On the other hand, isn't she always?

I hate to say this, but this is getting screwy. Carnelian is alive ... Uncle Orville is a robot ... what is this? How come all of a sudden Carl is a mad scientist? And he is not good looking. He looks like a sewer rat with that beard!

Holly Drummond
Glenwood, IA

I take it you wouldn't go out with Carl on a Saturday night, right, Holly? In case you're interested, some of our readers consider him quite a catch...but to each her own!

And I wouldn't lose any sleep over Lord Garnet, either. He was just suffering from a normal case of the blues. His mind is still strong and stable and now that Prince Garnet has returned to the Gemworld, I suspect the ol' guy will be smiling a lot more!

Dear Karen,

Let's get right to the point. AMETHYST is very probably the best comic on the market today. Well, second best, behind the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES. Take it from a true gem (my last name is Diamond), AMETHYST is great. When I first picked up the

AMETHYST preview in the LSH, I thought, well here's another boring comic. Was I wrong! It's not only not boring, it's exciting, interesting, and all around stupendous!

Yours till Topaz cuts his hair,

Jessica Diamond
5599 Edgemore
Montreal, Quebec

Dear Karen,

As good a job as you've done adapting AMETHYST to the open-ended format, I think you still have a little work to do. "The Boy Next Door" in AMETHYST #5 was a good example of not quite making it.

On pages 2 and 3, Ric and Romeo tried to recapture some of the flavor of Ernie Colon's work by adding the border and the panel inserts. The reason this failed, and looked kind of tacky, if you ask me, was because it didn't fit the style of the artists, giving it a "plastic" flavor, and b) it only appeared on two pages. Such artistic ornamentations were pervasive in Ernie's work, and added to the mystical quality of the series.

Page five, on the other hand, was beautiful, much truer to the artists' style and infinitely more effective.

Writing in general is very good, although (and I do this too) it is easy to lapse into flowery, archaic-sounding speeches, riddled with Arthurian cliché. The innovation of the "Plantworld," its lost Princess Amaryliss, and its evil "Dark Maple," even though trite, was very effective and added a wonderful moment of comic relief.

I don't often criticize coloring, but it seems to me that AMETHYST has become a bit drab (sorry, Carl). The multicolored beams from Carnelian's magical projector were boring, as were the facets of the "Gem-room" in the realm between. The scene with Sardonyx and the griffon seemed all yellow: the sky was never anything but, Sardonyx's clothing was orange (yellow with a little red mixed in), and the griffon was green (yellow with a little blue mixed in). Even I know that you can't do an entire page from just one end of a color wheel. What this series needs (and deserves) is strong, vibrant, contrasting colors.

Oh, well, maybe next time...

Continued Success!

Rob Hagiwara
358 Lander Hall HM-10
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98105

Our severest critic strikes again! We do admit that we fell victim to the ever-present, unavoidable, dreaded deadline crunch on issue #5, Rob, and we apologize if the art and coloring appeared a little rushed. Hope you enjoyed TALES OF THE LEGION artists Dan Jurgens and Karl Kesel's splendid work this month, and for the next two issues, an extra-special treat as co-creator Ernie Colon returns!

Dear Sir,

Let's see. "In her current incarnation ... the tone and the plots are back to what they were in the maxi-series" you said in APOG #2. Indeed, "Dark Maple"? (Any relation to a famous Canadian letter column writer?) Amethyst faces the deadly threat of the *goop*?? Carnelian achieves new heights, er, depths in corny dialogue???? The Annual came off as heavy as Greek tragedy in comparison—not that I minded, really. I like a little levity as a break from Fire Jade and company's end-of-the-Gemworld antics—which I expect will be back full force next issue.

After Carnelian's "And to see him is to understand—why the Gemworld needs durable synthetic fabrics" and "I'm too young to die! And too good looking!", I know how Bianca felt having to listen to Selena's inelegant spell-weaving in the Supergirl movie. Amethyst may have found Carnelian's cowardice unbelievable, but it confirmed a suspicion of mine on the Red Prince. He may have an execrable character, he may have twenty years of life experience to Amy's thirteen—but underneath it all, in his heart of hearts, Carnelian is really a scared kid, much like the ones we saw in the classic Teen Titans "Runaways" issues. Unfortunately, in the past 20 years this country's become fertile soil for a lost kid like Carl to take root and grow unchecked in the wrong direction.

Now, Sardonyx is another story. A real toad, true, but one with some redeeming qualities. Unlike Carnelian, he acts characteristically cool and logically in his moment of danger this issue, and he turns out to be (surprise!) a devoted patriot and family man whose his own house is concerned. Could we have Gemworld's version of Sgt. Culoock starting to take shape here? I imagine the notion is enough to make many of your readers and probably Amethyst herself, barf, but face it—sterling, faithful service to Dark Opal and Fire Jade has brought the Lord of Serpents only betrayal and ruin in return, but his foe Amethyst saves his life. When Sardonyx finds that out, just how big a fool can he be to keep casting pearls before swine?

Other glimpses of "Meanwhile, back at the Gemworld" were excellent as usual. Prince Moonstone was largely a cipher in the maxi-series because he was overshadowed by his father, but here we catch the first real glimpse of his character. Have to admit it, my heart went out to the poor schlub. And doubtless your new readers are thinking how sweet and comforting Lady Sapphire was. Of course, readers of your maxi-series will recall that Prince Topaz wiggled off her marital hook—and for good reason. But then the whole aristocratic scene seems to be in a bad tangle. I don't know whether there are quite a few members of the royal houses you haven't shown us yet (if there are, why did they all stay home in the war with Opal when Moonstone brought his whole family tagging along?) But assuming the only Lord and Lady eligibles are the ones we've seen so far,

the twelve houses seem to be in trouble. Amy refuses to take her throne as Lady Amethyst, and is stuck on Earth anyway. Ruby, Turquoise, and Sapphire have no visible heirs. Garnet's heir is lost. Prince Topaz seems to be in the best position, but if he marries into another house, that would leave his sister without an heir. Prince Moonstone's marriage would evidently either vacate the Turquoise or the Sapphire thrones, or leave his father without an heir. On the other hand, Princess-soon-to-be-Lady Emerald does have an heir—but she's stuck on Earth.

One final note—I share Sarah Finnegan's mixed feelings on the more stereotypical romantic triangle replacing the more unique Amethyst-Turquoise friendship, but I must say I think our purple princess is in the wrong on this one. Prince Topaz's safety is likely dubious as long as his sister feels threatened by him, and probably the best thing he could do is find protection under the skirts of another house. But Amethyst proclaimed in no-uncertain terms she will always be Amy Winston. What does she expect Topaz to do, sit around twiddling his thumbs for a decade of Gemworld time waiting for Amy to grow up, and then leave his world?

Since Amethyst has refused her throne, and seemingly had taken Lord Aquamarine's side when they last parted, it looks like Lord Garnet has sunk back into the hopelessness and despair he was mired in before Amethyst returned. When will we find out what really happened to Prince Garnet? (Sardonyx let slip the revelation that he was still living in the maxi-series, remember.)

Until Carl donates his magic generator and volunteers Amy as a subject to the Institute of Hyper-Normal Conflict Studies...

Gary Thompson
3701 Roosevelt
Dearborn, MI 48124

We never said it was easy being a thirteen-year-old girl one minute and a twenty-year-old magical princess the next. Gary. Amy's tough and determined, though, and even if she falters now and then, we think she's doing a pretty good job at living two different lives; don't you?

Also, thanks for contributing your analyses on Sardonyx, Carnelian Amethyst, Topaz, and Turquoise, to name a few. We spend a lot of time carefully working out the characters' interrelationships and we appreciate the feedback.

NEXT: The first of a two-part story as Amy embarks on a magical mystery tour and learns the true origin of the Gemworld! Gary, Dan, Ernie, and yours truly will be going along, make sure you are too! Take care, everyone—Karen



MEANWHILE...

The British
are coming!
The British are coming!

That's good news! For DC and its readers.

A few years ago, Joe Orlando and I crossed the "pond" to England to address a professional group of British cartoonists, acquaint them with DC's policies and rate structures, and tell them that we were anxious to establish an ongoing creative relationship with them. Our talk was well received and we came home feeling that our message had been heard and, at the very least, some long-lasting friendships had been established.

By the time Mike W. Barr's and British artist Brian Bolland's breathtaking, trend-setting maxi-series **CAMELOT 3000** was released, I was in charge of DC's editorial department and really glad that Brian had opted to throw in with us.

Since then, the trickle of talent from across the pond has become a flood. We have watched in awe as Alan Moore redefined **SWAMP THING**, cheered at the exciting new heights reached when Dave Gibbons drew **GREEN LANTERN**, breathed some fresh air with the absolutely unique art of Kevin O'Neill (who has popped up here and there, most notably in a recent issue of **OMEGA MEN**), and had a real blast reading that wonderful two-part **VIGILANTE** story set in New York but written by Alan Moore in the English countryside and illustrated by Jim Baikie, who resides in Scotland. (Jim, by the way, is currently drawing the origin of Brother Blood for a **TEEN TITANS SPECIAL**.)

To show her appreciation for jobs well done, President-Publisher Jenette Kahn recently took some 30 writers and artists to dinner in London when she went to England on business. The dinner was held at the Savoy Hotel, a posh locale of which Dave Gibbons commented, "I didn't think I was good enough to even walk in front of the building."

The dinner, everyone tells me, was a smashing success. Everyone had a good time and Jenette let everyone know that DC is still looking for new talent and new ideas. All I had to do was sit back and wait. Sure enough, in less time than it takes to say "British

Airways," the proposals started washing up against my door. After digging my way through submissions, I was pleased to see a high level of quality... at least equal to the level we get from my colleagues here in America. And so in the coming year, you will be seeing (at the very least) a graphic novel by Pat Mills and Kevin O'Neill with the working title **ARMAGEDDON**; an issue of the **DC CHALLENGE** pencilled by the fast-drawing Dave Gibbons and inked by Mark Farmer; Vega tales in the back of **OMEGA MEN** by Steve Parkhouse, Alan Moore, and Kevin O'Neill; at least 12 issues of **BATMAN AND THE OUTSIDERS** by Alan Davis; and a very special maxi-series from Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons—one I mentioned in a previous column... and still hush-hush.

When Editor Bob Greenberger was going to London for holiday in early January (see, I can speak like an Englishman), I asked him to meet with a number of the writers and artists to follow up on business we began doing by mail. When he returned, rested and bursting with good cheer, he made the following report:

"The British writers and artists are much like a fraternity. They gather regularly at a pub across the street from Forbidden Planet, the largest comics shop in the country. As is the local custom, they bought each other rounds of drinks and no one ever kept a tab. Despite a smoke-filled room, everyone gathered around a table and chatted away... usually swapping tales about people not in the room."

"From what I can gather, most of these gents have grown up on DC Comics and working for us is a dream of sorts come true. For example, both Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons admitted an unending devotion to Tommy Tomorrow, a character who hasn't appeared in his own series in over 18 years! And every time one of them comes to America, they usually hover around Julie Schwartz's office, hoping for spare copies of his older titles, in order to complete their collections. Julie, I have learned, gets most of these guys to say yes to assignments by promising to give them hard-to-find back issues."

"On the first day, I had lunch with Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, spending the afternoon discussing

their maxi-series. Later we shared Indian food with Alan Davis, Mark Farmer, and Mike McMahon. All but Mike have been doing work for us, and try as I might, I couldn't wheedle a commitment out of Mike. He said when his current commitments are finished, he'll see what we have to offer.

Meantime, Alan Davis explained that he has had to rethink his drawing because this is the first time he's working in full color from start to finish. Many of the British weekly comics use color sparingly and no story is ever completely in color. He's been coloring in photostats of his **BATO** pages just to get some idea of how his work will look.

"Mark is looking forward to his issue of **CHALLENGE** and is spending some of his free time illustrating children's books in England. Everyone is really very pleasant and relaxed about their jobs, without any of the seeming pressure felt by many of the creators back in the States."

"The next night I was treated to Indonesian cuisine by Nick Landau of Eagle Comics. We were joined by Brian Bolland, Steve Moore, Steve Parkhouse, Kevin O'Neill, and the always gregarious Dave Gibbons. Everything seemed to go all right until Nick handed me a plate and suggested I sample the squid. Yipe!

"Anyway, Steve Parkhouse explained that he had been completing assignments for the British comics publishers and was looking forward to doing a great deal of work for DC. In addition to a few **VEGA** stories, Steve will probably contribute ideas for graphic novels and one-shot tales. Steve Moore, on the other hand, has already submitted one maxi-series and one graphic novel proposal. He's serious about wanting to work with us. And Brian mentioned the night before that he has a hard time saying no."

"There were others I wanted to meet and speak with, but either there wasn't enough time or they were unavailable. From what I can gather, though, the people over there are more than eager to do work for us."

No more eager than I am to have them work for us, Bob. Thank you for the report, and I'm glad you had so much fun.

Hmm. Now that Bob and Jenette have been over there, I wonder when I get my turn to go to London and take these guys out?

Thank you and good afternoon.

Bob

DC
ON SALE THE
CHECK
WEEK OF MAY 16
LIST

- ☐ **BATMAN 386:** Meet the latest nemesis, the Black Mask!
- ☐ **THE FLASH 348:** Flash's Rogues' Gallery is in danger, and the jury reaches a verdict!
- ☐ **SUPERMAN 410:** Clark Kent is fired when Superman disavows a story!
- ☐ **STAR TREK® 17:** Uhura, Sulu, and Beaulieu go undercover and confront a man from Uhura's past!
- ☐ **AMETHYST 8:** Fire Jade's identity is revealed, and Citrine's fate is decided!

- ☐ **JEMM, SON OF SATURN 12:** The gripping conclusion: Does Jemm find Syrra? Do Jemm and Luther part?
- ☐ **ARAK, SON OF THUNDER 47:** A magical menace in China threatens Arak!
- ☐ **OMEGA MEN 29:** At the nerve center of Wombworld, the truth about the Psions!
- ☐ **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES 13:** Timber Wolf travels to a brutal planet to fulfill Karate Kid's will!

- ☐ **RED TORNADO 2:** The Construct makes his move as Superman takes the Tornado apart!

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